

U.S. Military Academy - Cadet Mess, Store and Drawing Academy.

(Mess Hall, Washington Hall,

HABS No. NY-5708-44

Eisenhower Barracks, MacArthur Barracks)

Southwest corner of the Plain, between Thayer Road,

Brewerton Road and Scott Place

U.S. Military Academy

West Point

Orange County

New York

HABS

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36-WERP,

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY
CADET MESS, STORE AND DRAWING ACADEMY
(Mess Hall, Washington Hall
Eisenhower Barracks, MacArthur Barracks)

LOCATION: Southwest corner of the Plain, between Thayer Road,
Brewerton Road and Scott Place; U.S. Military Academy,
West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.587010.4582480.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Cadet Dining Hall, Cadet Barracks, Classrooms and Offices.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Cadet Mess occupies both a central function in the
everyday life of the Academy and is a major building
helping to define the boundaries of the Plain.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1925-29; additions 1946, 1965 and 1969.
Original working drawings are dated July 1925; they were revised
and issued September 1925, and approved in October 1925. The
cornerstone was laid June 10, 1926. Drawings for the Delano and
Aldrich addition are dated March 1946 with a record date of
April 1949.
2. Architects and Engineers: Arnold W. Brunner Associates,
William Gehron, Sidney F. Ross, William F. Pennell, Merle W. Alley,
101 Park Avenue, New York. Consulting engineers: J.F. Musselman
Associates, 101 Park Avenue, New York.

Many details of the Cadet Store section were designed by the
Quartermaster's office.

Mess hall and kitchen addition, 1946: Delano and Aldrich,
New York. Consulting engineers: Weiskopf and Pickworth, New York.
Construction was complete in March 1949.

Mess hall, barracks and classroom addition, 1965: O'Conner and
Kilham with Clarke and Rapvano James Mongitore and Associates.
Consulting engineer: Weiskopf and Pickworth, New York.

Barracks addition, 1969: O'Conner and Kilham, New York.

3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builders: Original drawings and constructions were executed under the supervision of Col. E. J. Timberlake, Quartermaster. The Delano and Aldrich addition was constructed by Anthony M. Meyerstein, Inc., General Contractors, Brooklyn, New York with Frank H. McEnaney, Inc., Electrical Contractor, Poughkeepsie, New York. Drawings are marked "Approved by Clarence Renshaw, Colonel Corps of Engineers".
5. Original plans and construction: As it now stands, the Cadet Mess/ Washington Hall represents four major periods of building. The original section, which contained the Cadet Mess Hall or Dining Hall (seating capacity 2,500), the Cadet Stores and the Drawing Academy, is now partially destroyed and virtually encapsulated by the additions. Congress appropriated \$177,063 in 1923 for the building (Annual Report, 1924). The Annual Report of 1925 noted the progress of the new building:

"Excavation for the Cadet Mess Hall, Store and Drawing Academy, undertaken July 1, 1924, consisting of blasting approximately 20,000 cubic yards of earth, and including also wrecking the old gymnasium and officers' quarters in clearing the site for erection of the new building, has been completed by hire of day labor at a total expenditure within the appropriation allowed for this purpose. The mechanical plant and equipment previously in use with recent additions, have been utilized to advantage in economical removal of excavation and disposal thereof.

Active preparations are in progress for laying footings and construction of foundations and for a limited portion of superstructure of the mess hall, as restricted by the amount of appropriations available during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926."

The Cadet Mess transferred from Grant Hall to Washington Hall on June 20, 1929 when the first meal was eaten in the new building (Annual Report, 1929).

The original plan was shaped like that of a truncated arrowhead whose west and south wings, otherwise near 90° to each other, formed obtuse angles with the northeast facade. In effect it was an eight-sided building with the south wing being slightly longer than the west. Stretching southwest from the six-story central section was a low two-story kitchen squeezed between the five-story wings and tied to the center by a one-story connection. At the rear of the kitchen, an impressive stone chimney rose to an 86'-9" height.

The kitchen was designed as a tall central space with a furred, arched perimeter ceiling which gave way to a higher central monitor and skylight. Clerestory windows circled the room at a 14'-6" height just below the spring line of the central ceiling. A monitor with clerestory windows lighted the connecting passage as

well. Directly beneath the central skylight the cooking ranges were situated on-axis with the connecting passage and were flanked by serving tables which occupied the remainder of the room along with steam kettles and dish warmers. Original finishes included glazed terra cotta walls, quarry tile floors and plaster ceilings. This central core was surrounded by lower one-story rooms which were either supply or support rooms. Staircase cores flanked the kitchen at the point where its exterior walls met those of the mess halls.

The southernmost 45' of the south wing comprised the Cadet Store, which was not directly accessible to the Mess Hall but had a separate entrance on the east elevation.

The basement, although primarily housing kitchen support facilities, was divided into four functions. Both ends of the wings were physically separated from the rest of the basement spaces and had exterior entrances; the south end was the Cadet Store storage and the west end was the Arsenal. The basement area under the principal entrance contained a photographic studio and darkroom, and a clerk's room. The remainder of the basement, under the mess halls and the kitchen, contained storage rooms for dry groceries, flour, vegetables; a bakery; butcher shop and cold storage; dairy refrigeration; linen rooms; a steward's office; a vegetable preparing room; an ice-making room; storage rooms; and various mechanical rooms. To the southwest of the central basement rooms, and separated from them by a driveway under the first floor, was a coal and charcoal storage area flanking the smokestack and freight elevator.

The 140' facade contained a series of enfildade spaces. From southeast to northwest they were: a visitor's room; an elevator/stairhall; the entrance vestibule; a stairhall and pay office; and two unidentified offices. The spaces flanking the entrance/stair core were only one story and to the front of the five-story facade walls of the building.

Cadet Stores Wing: This was a vertical block of floors in the south wing. Each floor measured approximately 65' x 45' on the interior. This block had its own freight elevator and staircase core against the north wall in all floors. The basement (storage) was an open space with two free-standing piers; this plan was similar on the first and second floors with the exception of a counter with an east-west wire partition which divided the first floor room. The third floor was partitioned into six spaces: sample display, manager's office, unidentified room (the largest), file room, toilet and entrance lobby between the stairs and the elevator. On the fourth floor the Cadet Stores space extended throughout the south and west wings and the central area. The south wing on this floor was a series of rooms on either side of the longitudinal corridor and contained the functions of tailoring: cutters and trimmers rooms, dressing rooms, issue room, men's coat room, men's dining room, women's sewing room, pressing room, storage rooms, "AAA" dormitory and toilets. The west wing was a series of storage rooms on either side of the corridor. A discrepancy is shown on the 1925 plumbing plan where the central area and the west wing is shown as a dormitory and living room. Plans from 1927 and 1940 show dormitory rooms while the original plans and those from 1940 and 1952 show a tailor shop. On the fifth floor the south end of the south wing was

divided into five rooms: girl's sewing room, foreman's room, pressing room, cobbler's room and corridor. The corridor led into a large open tailor shop room with free-standing columns and skylights which occupied about half of the south wing. The remainder of the south wing, separated from the tailor shop by a solid wall, was a large open drafting room with free-standing columns and a skylight; this was part of the Drawing Academy. (This "Academy" is referred to as the "Department of Military Topography and Graphics" in Forman and Weiss's "Brief Chronological History of the United States Military Academy, 1802-1976.") The core of the central area on this floor was a lecture hall surrounded by a corridor and offices, storage rooms, clerk's rooms, a library conference room, and a photography department classroom with shop, darkroom and supply closets. The west wing contained a drafting room similar to that of the south wing. The main stairhall core contained an exhibition hall on the fifth floor and a map room, lighted by a skylight, on the sixth floor.

With the 1965 addition the Mess Hall facade was partially destroyed, partially altered, and completely lost to exterior view. Dining room additions to the east, northeast and north of the facade enclosed the central sallyport section up to the fourth floor, with the fourth to sixth floors enclosed in a light court above the dining hall roof. The enclosed facade has lost its flight of stairs, doors, leaded glass casements, doorway to the north stairs and two complete bays (1-5 floors) on either side of the projecting tower/sallyport entrance of the facade.

The unusual shape of the Cadet Mess Building is a result of the siting of two previous buildings, the physical nature of the site and the established boundaries of the Plain. It was squeezed between the southwest corner of the Plain and the rocky hill to the west and southwest. The building was also built between the Central Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-8) (1851 and 1887) 30' to the east and the North Cadet Barracks 48' to the north. A sidewalk paralleled the northeast, north and east elevations of the Cadet Mess and separated it from these neighboring buildings. At that time, a roadway, which had existed at least as early as 1844, ran east-west past the north ends of the West Academic Building (HABS No. NY-5708-15) and the Central Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-8) and curved north at the Cadet Mess facade to pass in front of the Superintendent's Quarters (HABS No. NY-5708-1). This early southwest boundary of the Plain was altered and pushed north when the Cadet Mess was enlarged in the 1960s. The original roadway then became an access between Thayer Road and the quadrangle area of the Central Barracks (Bradley Barracks).

North of the Cadet Mess an early three-sided "quadrangle" had been formed by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson's now demolished North Cadet Barracks and the North Cadet Guard House (ca. 1909) to the west of it. The latter building was demolished around 1936 to make way for the new North Cadet Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-45) (Scott Barracks #735) by Paul P. Cret. (See historic photographs in the Lange volume of this project.)

Just in front of the Cadet Mess on the edge of the Plain stood the 1883 statue of Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, which has since been relocated to the northwest corner of the Plain.

The appendix contains a description of the building under construction in 1929.

6. Alterations and additions: Delano and Aldrich's work in 1946 (drawings record date 1949) was the first addition to the building and the first substantial alteration. This addition entailed the demolition of the central kitchen wing and its connecting passage area; the creation of a third mess hall in the location of the former kitchen; a new serving kitchen built around the new mess hall; and alterations and enlargement of the food preparatory and storage areas of the basement. The new serving kitchen wrapped around the new mess hall at a lower height and connected the ends of the south and west wings. The tall chimney of the original kitchen was demolished in order for the new kitchen to extend back an additional 46'; approximately 26' of the existing rock outcrop was removed for this expansion. In addition to the complete removal of the kitchen wing and chimney, the exterior was most affected by the concealment of portions of the south and west wings respectively, doing greatest harm by obscuring the lower section of the tall traceried Mess Hall windows. The need for an exhaust stack led to a 5'-10" extension of the southwest elevation, concealing the machicolated projection of the Lecture Hall's projection room and four windows. Interior changes include the new dining room or mess hall addition where the kitchen had been; a new wall opening into this new room (from one doorway to three tall, arched openings replacing three traceried windows); a blocked-up doorway on the inner or kitchen wall of each mess hall wing; and the creation of two new doorways on each of those same wing walls.

In the two decades between major additions, various alterations were carried out on the exterior and interior. Even before the 1946 addition, new materials had begun to slowly replace those which were outdated, such as fluorescent lights on the fourth and fifth floor (1942, 1943), new linoleum floors for part of the fifth floor (1943), and acoustical board ceilings for the drafting rooms (1945). The exterior parapet walls were rebuilt in 1943 with harder brick and internal copper flashing. The 1950s brought more alterations of a similar nature: more fluorescent lights in the drafting room (1950); the resurfacing of the basement corridor floors (1952); a new floor (unidentified) for the fourth floor tailor shop (1952); new lighting in the classrooms (1952); acoustical board in the drafting rooms (1953); the re-wiring of the fourth and fifth floors (1958); "Frosted Alko" glass for the clerestory windows (1958); window and door glass lights in the lecture hall which were replaced with aluminum dead lights (1958); new cold rooms in the basement (1958); and on the fourth and fifth floors, converted toilet rooms, new doors, partitions removed and asphalt tile put over concrete (1958). Alterations of significance in the early 1960s include a new office in the basement (1960), new partitions in the fifth floor drafting rooms (1961), the repointing of traceried windows in the new mess hall wing (1963), and parapet repairs to the south wing (1963).

The massive additions by O'Conner and Kilham et.al., beginning in 1965, have been the most extensive and the most altering to the

original building. This includes the six-story Washington Hall (745-B) academic section built onto the facade of the original building; Eisenhower Barracks (745-C) built as an east wing of Washington Hall; a MacArthur Barracks (745-D), a north wing of Washington Hall with a later (1969) west wing (745-E). (See Schematic Plan.) All of the barracks are five stories. The most damaging aspect of the Washington Hall addition was the concealment and partial demolition of the original facade. Beneath the fourth floor, the original facade was incorporated as a free-standing wall-in-antis between the old and new dining halls. In order to accomplish this, the granite steps were removed, the main doors and a door to the north were removed, the entrance porch parapet was lowered, the casement windows of the second and third floors were removed, the one-story wings flanking the facade tower were demolished and buttresses at the sixth-floor level of the entrance tower were cut off. Although the fourth-to-sixth floors of the facade are visible in a light court of the addition, the original elevations of the Mess Hall cannot be seen from the Plain now; the barracks wings act to hide the east and north elevations of the original Mess Hall wings. Other alterations that took place at this time include the creation of a new double doorway on the south wing's east elevation, using the original facade doors, and the adaptation of the discontinued Cadet Store spaces into classrooms.

The following alterations have been determined from an inspection of the building and are undated:

North Elevation, Entrance Tower: Alterations include a tower stairhall window which is blocked up, a doorway cut from a double window, and a new granite buttress.

North Elevation, West Wing: Alterations include two new doorways with concrete stairs and a concrete and stone retaining wall west of the dishwashing room; new basement window sills; new doors for the mess hall entrance; the removal of stairs; the removal of wrought iron window grilles; blocked-up windows and a blocked-up door of the basement arsenal; a new basement window well and window west of the entrance steps; copper screens on the traceried mess hall windows; louvers in the lower sections of twenty-two fourth and fifth floor windows; three clerestory windows replaced by exhaust vents; and the replacement of the monitor roof with a non-copper material.

West Elevation, West Wing: Alterations on this elevation are confined to the placement of louvers in ten windows on the fourth and fifth floors, blocked or louvered basement windows and a new doorway constructed in the stair tower at the level of the new kitchen roof.

South Elevation, West Wing: Besides the obvious alterations of the lower wall, resulting from the kitchen addition, this elevation is virtually unchanged except for eight windows with louvers, a new metal catwalk and a fifth floor stair tower window that became a doorway for the catwalk.

West Elevation, Center Section: Alterations on this elevation are related to the 1946 kitchen addition. Four windows on the fourth

and fifth floors were concealed by the projecting addition and the three large traceried windows of the central Mess Hall were removed.

West Elevation, South Wing: The kitchen addition altered this elevation in a manner similar to that of the south elevation of the west wing, i.e. the wall below the second-floor level was covered, obscuring the lower part of the Mess Hall's traceried windows. Other alterations include 26 windows filled with louvers, the addition of a metal platform for a second-floor stair tower door, and a new fifth floor balcony door.

South Elevation, South Wing: Alterations include a new doorway, a metal platform and a metal door at the second-floor level of the stair tower, which provided access to the new kitchen roof. Otherwise, this elevation of the Cadet Stores wing is altered only by louvers in fifteen windows; two windows altered by air-conditioning units; and four basement windows which are filled in with granite.

East Elevation, South Wing: The major change on this elevation was the creation of a new arched doorway into the Mess Hall. The four louvered mullioned windows of a large traceried window and three basement windows were removed for this addition, which is two bays to the west from the original east entrance. Other alterations include: a replacement entrance door to the Cadet Store wing; louvered windows; and a loading dock where the Washington Hall addition meets the original building.

Interior: Interior spaces have been altered to various degrees on different floors. The basement has been almost completely altered in both finish and space. The first floor is relatively unaltered in finish although it has suffered some spatial change, including the removal of the one-story rooms flanking the entrance tower (1965), and the opening-up of the wall into the new mess hall where the kitchen was located. With the addition of three mess halls in 1965, the original facade was reduced to just its stairtower width and has become a free-standing interior island between all the mess halls.

The second floor consists of the upper mess halls for the most part and has not changed. What was once a tiled porch roof on the facade is now a carpeted balcony accessed by the traceried window openings now devoid of windows. Partitions now divide the second floor of the former Cadet Store wing. The third floor consists of the upper mess hall; the former Cadet Store section of this floor is altered with partitions.

Alterations to the fourth floor consisted of partitioning off large spaces into smaller rooms to create classrooms. Drawings from 1925, the 1940s and the 1960s show that this floor has been used for a variety of uses.

By 1942 the solid wall dividing the Tailor Shop from the Drafting Room of the fifth floor's south wing was opened at one time for a doorway. Partitions in both wings on this floor were installed in 1961, diminishing the large, sky-lighted drafting room spaces.

B. Historical Context:

Edward C. Boynton's History of West Point describes the mess hall which preceded the present one:

"The Mess Hall, built of stone, in 1852, stands directly south of the Academy, fronting east, and is 170 feet by 62 feet in depth. It is one of the structures which command general admiration for their symmetry and beautiful proportions. It comprises a Central Hall, 96 x 46 feet, and 20 feet high, which is the mess room for all the cadets. The north wing affords quarters for the Purveyor, and that on the south is used for mess rooms for the officers attached to the Academy. A kitchen and bakery in rear, and quarters for the employe's [sic] in the basement, compose the remainder of the building. Its original cost was \$43,187."

Construction of the new multi-purpose building resulted from the expansion of the Cadet Corps to 2500.

The central area of the expanded Mess Hall (original facade entrance) features the "poop deck", so called because the cadet adjutant makes official announcements and gives orders while the Corps of Cadets is gathered together. The "poop deck" is where the officer-in-charge sits to "view the cadets and maintain order." It is also used for speakers, who before the construction of Eisenhower Hall, could only address the entire Corps in the Mess Hall. One of the most famous addresses given there was retired General Douglas MacArthur's "old soldiers never die" speech.

For the historical context of the Mess Hall within the general history of the Academy's development see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: As part of the second generation of twentieth-century buildings at West Point, the Cadet Mess building continued the Collegiate Gothic Style established so well by Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson. When the building was greatly expanded in the 1960s, both its neo-gothic style and its plan were influenced by the original building. In its present form, the building serves as a strong architectural boundary for the Plain.

The architectural information that follows will concentrate on the original section of the building and the 1946 addition and will only briefly touch on the later additions.

2. Condition of the fabric: The physical condition of the original section and its additions is excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: For the general shape and over-all dimensions see the accompanying sketch plan. The building is five stories above a basement with an extra sixth floor in the central tower core. While the Cadet Store end of the south wing has five separate floors, the Mess Hall space occupies floors one to three with two floors above that.
2. Foundations: Foundations consist of 2'-3" thick concrete walls on concrete spread footings with steel I-beams set vertically in piers.
3. Walls: Rock-faced granite laid in random range ashlar pattern with limestone trim comprises the exterior walls. Dressed limestone is used for the watertable; window sills, jambs, tracery, mullions; arches; copings; door jambs; decorative sculpture; cornice; and embrasures. Accompanying photographs illustrate the uses and placement of this trim. To a much lesser extent, Washington Hall and its barracks wings use limestone trim in association with random ashlar granite in a similar manner.
4. Structural systems: The structural system is that of steel beams and concrete slabs. The exterior wall at the first floor level consists of 11" of exterior granite, 1'-5" of brick, a 5" air space, and 3" of terra cotta block. Steel I-beams encased in concrete are set vertically throughout the brick walls. At the fifth floor level the walls are 2' thick. Interior walls are similar to the exterior walls in composition except on the granite facing. Floors are poured concrete slabs with embedded steel I-beams. Gustavino arches are used to span vestibule spaces in the facade tower. Steel trusses span the original mess halls above concrete ceilings. The 1946 mess hall ceiling is plaster beneath a truss system. The flat roof is a poured 1'-10" concrete slab with 12" and 20" steel I-beams. Structural systems in the 1946 addition are similar to those described for the earliest construction.
5. Towers, balconies: The central entrance tower of the facade can best be seen now in historic photographs since the 1965 addition has banished the lower half of it to an interior space and the upper half to obscurity in an internal light court. The recessed center of this tower, with its balcony and large traceried windows beneath a pointed compound arch, was much like a typical cathedral entrance (see HABS photographs).
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Four principal doorways provided access to the original building: the tower entrance on the northeast facade; direct entrances to the mess halls on the east and north elevations of the south and west wings respectively; and an east elevation entrance to the Cadet Stores section of the south wing. There was a second doorway on the facade, just to the right of the main entrance, which led to the stairwell. The facade doorway became an interior passage when the mess hall was extended in 1965. At that time the original multi-panelled

facade doors were re-used for a new doorway which was cut from a window bay south of the south mess hall doorway on the east elevation. These two original doors, made as a grid of many small square panels, were re-hung on their original H-L hinges. The new doorway was modelled on the wing doorways with a compound pointed arch, jambs and side stairwalls of limestone. The doors to the north and east mess hall entrances, which were similar to the facade doors, have been replaced by six-panel doors. The non-accessible balcony above each of these doorways has two stone scuppers just above the arch. All of these doorways are reached by a flight of stone stairs with flanking side walls. The Cadet Stores doorway on the south end of the south wing's east elevation is much smaller than the previously mentioned doorways. It appears as if this bi-valve doorway has its original doors each with two six-light windows above four panels. A tripartite transom window with 12, 15 and 18 leaded lights is set under a limestone pointed arch; limestone is also used for the jamb stones and the stair side walls.

- b. Windows: Windows are systematized by location and by the function of the interior spaces. This system is one that works by floor: Basement, first-to-third floors, fourth floor, fifth floor and sixth floor. The exception to this is the Cadet Stores wing, which is broken down by basement, first floor, second-to-fourth floors and fifth floor.

The basement windows vary in size from approximately 1'-7" to 4'-11" in height x 3'-0" wide. These are all single metal casement windows, of 6, 9, 6-over-6 or 6-over-3 lights, which pivot out from the top. All windows have lintels, part of the 1'-4" high watertable, and sills of limestone and many have wrought iron grilles.

The most decorative windows are those which light the first-to-third story mess hall wings. These are mostly two-tiered, traceried windows of eight metal casements each divided by limestone mullions. The casements, with leaded diamond-shape quarrel glass, have both fixed and pivoting sections. The pointed arch masonry opening with limestone trim typically measured approximately 11'-0" wide x 20'-0" high. Notable exception to the basic type include the facade entrance tower window which was approximately 20'-0" wide x 43'-0" high and more elaborate and the west windows of the west wing, which contains the stained glass "Washington Memorial Window" by George Pearse Ennis dated 1937.

Mess hall windows were faithfully copied for the 1946 addition mess hall but the 1965 addition mess halls have traceried windows more modern in character. The stained glass memorial window from the class of 1944, over the present facade entrance, is the only new window of particular interest.

Fourth and fifth floor windows of the Cadet Stores and Drawing Academy respectively, are similar but differentiated. Those on the fourth floor are primarily pairs of double mullioned windows separated by long-and-short jamb stones. These 6-over-12 light casement windows typically measure approximately 2'-2" wide x 6'-7" high (single masonry opening). These windows on both floors are trimmed in limestone.

At the sixth floor level, casements of various sizes and numbers of lights serve as clerestory windows for the lecture hall and Drawing Academy spaces. These windows for the lecture hall are part of the central tower walls which rise to a sixth story level but those for the drafting room spaces were part of a roof monitor. The Cadet Stores section at the south end of the south wing is different from the fenestration pattern just described for the main wings by having 9-over-15 light casements on the first and fifth floors and 6-over-12 light casements on the second-to-fourth floors. These are all double windows with limestone mullions and trim.

7. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: The flat built-up roof is hidden by the parapet which is 4'-6" above the roof's lowest point.

b. Monitors: The clerestory monitors have hipped roofs topped by a smaller hipped roof vent. These were originally covered with copper panels but now have a corrugated tin covering.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: See sketch plans for a description of the present interior uses. Only the south, central and west wings of the first floor and the fifth floor lecture room basically remain unaltered spatially and have continued to be used as originally designed.
2. Stairways: The original section of the building has four principal stairways: the entrance tower with two separate staircases sharing common lobbies; an attached stair tower for each wing; and a staircase in the Cadet Stores wing. The two entrance tower staircases are half-turn stairs with landings whose treads, landings, risers and stringers are terrazzo, except for the entry lobby of bluestone. Each staircase has a wrought iron handrail. The Cadet Stores staircase is a dog-leg type while the staircases for each wing are spiral stone stairs. Each staircase extends from the basement to the fifth or sixth floors.
3. Flooring: The basement has its original concrete and quarry tile floors, the latter used in the kitchen areas. Additional quarry tile was put in kitchen areas during the 1946 alteration. The original dining halls are floored with green slate laid in a random flagstone pattern, which was used as the prototype for the 1946 and 1965 dining room floors. Bluestone covers the entrance lobby. While quarry tile is still found in the Cadet Stores wing corridors and in toilet rooms, the other floor finish for the fourth and fifth floors is linoleum or asphalt tiles. The fifth floor Exhibition Hall and adjacent corridor have a quarry tile floor, the fifth floor Lecture Hall has a concrete floor.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: Basement walls are primarily glazed terra cotta tiles while the ceiling finish is either concrete or plaster. The first floor kitchen area has glazed terra cotta

tile walls and a hung accoustical tile ceiling. The 1946 dining room has 11'-9" high square-panelled wood wainscoting and plaster beams with hung accoustical tile in between. Of the 36'-8" height of the original dining hall walls, approximately 6' of the lower wall is a square-panelled wood wainscot, above which is plaster. Accoustical tiles fill the ceiling between painted concrete-encased I-beams. The walls and ceiling of the three 1965 dining halls are treated in a similar manner.

The original entrance vestibule and the entrance tower's second-to-third floor balcony both have limestone walls, Gustavino arches and limestone ribbed barrel and fan vaults.

Dropped accoustical tile ceilings cover original furred plaster ceilings in most areas of the fourth and fifth floors and in the Cadet Stores wing. Exceptions to this include the fifth floor Exhibition Hall and corridor with Gustavino arches, and limestone ribbed plaster vaults and plaster arches (see HABS photo). The central corridor of the fifth floor has a picture molding on its plaster walls.

Istrian stone baseboards are found in the entrance tower vestibule, staircases and in the Exhibition Hall.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The most elaborate, important original interior door, that leading into the dining halls from the original entrance vestibule, was removed along with its wrought iron transom grille. The doorway, preceded by limestone fan vaulting, does still exist and is set in a limestone wall with a shallow pointed arch opening (see HABS photo). Above this doorway is a stone balcony set under a large limestone pointed arch opening. The former exterior doorway, however, is now surpassed in treatment by its original inner side entrance doorway, which by virtue of the 1965 addition is now on the interior. The doors of this entrance were removed and reused on the south wing. Limestone is used for the walls, compound pointed arch and the crenelated balcony above. Stairway doors on either side of the entrance vestibule have also been removed and the pointed arch doorways blocked up.

Doors in the 1946 kitchen addition are hollow metal for the most part with some multi-panelled wood doors used for the dining room section.

- b. Windows: All of the windows with tracery are designed in a Perpendicular English Gothic style. The largest, most decorative clear glass window of the original building was that of the facade. Half of this window is now cut off and part of the interior as a result of the 1965 addition roof. While the limestone mullions and perpendicular tracery of this are intact, the leaded glass casements have been removed. Four other formerly exterior windows on the facade tower and three on each side retain their diamond quarrel casements (see HABS photo).

The windows lighting the sides of dining halls, of all periods, are diamond leaded quarrel casements in stone mullioned and

traceried, pointed-arch windows. The exceptions here include the Washington Memorial Window at the west end of the west wing dining hall. This window is a stained glass design by George Pearse Ennis of 1937 which depicts the military life of George Washington. The other memorial stained glass window is that of the 1965 facade at the southeast end of the southeast dining room wing. This window depicts famous American military battles and was given by the Class of 1944.

Notes from a buildings and grounds tour in 1957, found in the Historical Inquiry File, U.S.M.A. Archives, gives the following information:

"the large mural was a W.P.A. project; Tom L. Johnson was the head of the Department of MT&G and he planned all the decorations prior to West Point's sesquicentennial; the flowers painted on the ceiling beams represent countries which colonized America; fleur de lis of France, tulip of Holland, cornflower of Germany, rose of England, shamrock of Ireland the the thistle of Scotland; as a 150th birthday gift the National Guard of the states and territories gave state and territorial flags; the four figures next to the "poop deck" denote scholarship, courage, leadership and physical vigor."

For a description of symbolic decorations adorning the new parts of Washington Hall, see "Classic Symbols Will Ornament the Exterior of the New Barracks" by Lieutenant Colonel Victor Cuneo, Historical Inquiry File, U.S.M.A. Archives

Skylights and clerestory windows once lighted the fifth floor drafting rooms and lecture hall. Many skylights are now gone or blocked but the clerestory windows remain, although some in the lecture hall are blocked. It is undetermined whether the skylight over the sixth floor entrance tower map room is still used.

The creation of a light court above the third floor level of the original facade provides natural light for a surrounding corridor.

6. Decorative features and trim: Decoration is pretty much concentrated in the original dining or mess halls. Features integral with the structure include: painted concrete ceiling beams with the two primary central beams bearing the dates 1778 and 1802; carved shields on the second-story stone balcony; carved stone impost blocks for the arches between the original and 1946 dining halls (1946-1949); niches with statues flanking the balcony and the entrance to the 1946 dining hall; and a cornerstone on the south wall of the entrance tower bearing the date 1925-1929. Other decorative features in these halls are state flags hung on poles from the walls (original flags placed there in 1951 were replaced in 1971); oil portraits of U.S.M.A. and U.S. Army personnel; and a mural covering the south wall of the south hall, measuring approximately 68' x 35', which is a montage of historic battles and military leaders through the ages painted by T. Loftin Johnson in 1936. This mural was restored

Johnson, from Bedford, N. Y., was responsible for the present color scheme used for the painted ceiling, as indicated by drawings dated 1951. The 1946 and 1965 halls are similarly treated. The "poop deck" balcony was redecorated in 1954 at which time a portrait of George Washington was added (Annual Report, 1954).

Octagonal limestone columns-in-antis, with Istrian stone bases, between the fifth floor Exhibition Hall and corridor are the only decorative treatment on the upper floors not associated with doors or windows.

7. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: The original and present system is steam radiator heat.
- b. Lighting: All of the original lighting fixtures have been changed from incandescent to fluorescent. The notable exception is in the dining halls which are still lighted by hanging iron lamps. The lamps in the early halls are original. Undated ink and crayon drawings of these lamps, probably dating from the 1940s, indicate that they were copied for the 1946 and later for the 1965 halls, which have similar types. The original exterior wrought iron lanterns flanking the entrance doors survive and are in their same location, now on the interior.

8. Original furnishings: Furnishings for the dining rooms, although not in present use, include linen tablecloths and napkins with the U.S.M.A. insignia, designed in 1936 and a design, though not carried out, for formica tables with an insignia inlay (1947 drawings) which were changed to plain birch top tables with oak legs (1950 revision to 1947 drawings). (See drawings in Facilities Engineer's Office, D.E.H., U.S.M.A.)

D. Site:

1. General Setting: Washington Hall faces northeast across the Parade Ground toward the juncture of Cullum, Thayer and Washington Roads. The barracks arms, Eisenhower and MacArthur, which extend east and north respectively from the Washington Hall facade, define the southern and part of the western boundaries of the Parade Ground. Between the building and the Parade Ground a wide concrete sidewalk/roadway parallels the building and connects Thayer Road with Jefferson Road and Scott Place. The west ell wing of MacArthur Barracks (1969 addition) faces the Superintendent's Quarters (HABS No. NY-5708-1) to the north, the Gymnasium (HABS No. NY-5708-43) to the west, and a Cadet Area to the south. This wing of MacArthur Barracks served to close off and create a Cadet quadrangle area formed originally by the Cadet Mess, the now demolished North Barracks (site of MacArthur Barracks wing) and present North Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-45). The North Barracks (#735) is actually connected to the Cadet Mess by a roadway arch on its southeast corner. West and southwest of the original structure the rocky grade rises up to De Russy Road and beyond to the Cadet Chapel (HABS No. NY-5708-20). Brewerton Road, which circles behind Washington Hall, actually runs under part of the building where it is built right against

the rocky outcrop. South of Eisenhower Barracks wing is another Cadet quadrangle area formed by Bradley Barracks (#756), the West Academic Building (Pershing Barracks) (HABS No. NY-5708-15) and the Old Central Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-8).

Immediately in front of the facade at the edge of the Parade Ground is an equestrian statue of George Washington, modelled after one in Union Square in New York City. This 1916 statue was moved to its present location in 1971. Just off the northeast corner of the MacArthur Barracks wing is a statue of General Douglas MacArthur by Walter Hancock which was erected in 1969.

2. Associated buildings: In 1939 a building designed by the architectural firm of York and Sawyer was constructed south of Brewerton Road near the cadet Mess Attendant's Building. This building, which is reached by De Russy Road, is now the Cadet Activities Building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. Subsequent alteration drawings are also found there.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 2. Secondary and published sources:

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Dunstan, Captain Edwin V., Q.M.C. "Construction at the Military Academy." The Quartermaster Review, November-December, 1929. pp. 29-34.
- D. Sources Not Yet Investigated: The records of Arnold W. Brunner Associates and subsequent architectural firms.
- E. Supplemental Material:
 1. Dunstan, "Construction at the Military Academy."
 2. Schematic Plan of Massing.

E. Supplemental Material:

1. Captain Edwin V. Dunstan, Q.M.C., "Construction at the Military Academy," The Quartermaster Review, November-December, 1929, pp. 29-34.

"The cadet mess hall, cadet store and drawing academy--now officially designated Washington Hall--is the largest single building at West Point. Its cost when completed, upward of two and one-half millions, will be greater than has been expended for any other building at the Academy. This project which has been built by the method of purchase and hire will be entirely completed about the time this article is published and the greater part of the building has been in use by the Academy since last June. To Colonel E. J. Timberlake, Q.M.C. Constructing Quartermaster during the building of this truly monumental structure, belongs the credit for a great achievement.

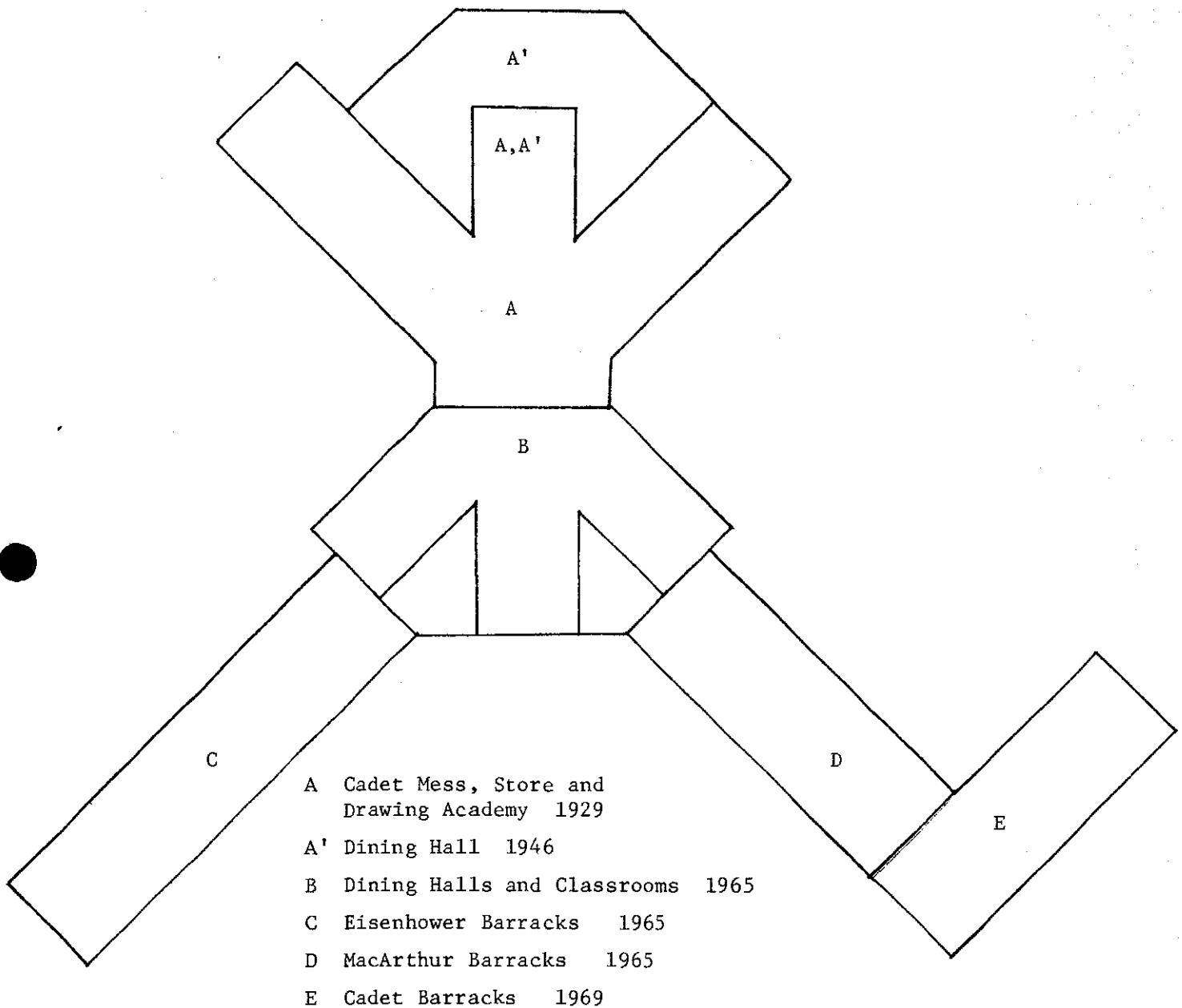
The building is V-shaped in plan and covers a ground space of approximately 51,000 square feet. It has five stories and basement. The exterior is of rock-faced gneiss quarried and dressed on the reservation, and is trimmed with Indiana limestone.

The main feature of the building is the dining hall for the Corps of Cadets--a stately room of most satisfying proportions. It follows the V-shape of the building, each leg of the V being seventy feet wide. The ceiling height is about thirty-five feet. It was first used by the Corps of Cadets for the Graduation Hop of the Class of 1929 on June 12th last, and on that occasion afforded ample space for more than three thousand dancers.

Washington Hall is equipped with the most modern kitchen equipment, refrigerating rooms and bakery, and is provided with four elevators. In addition to the dining hall and kitchens, the building houses the drawing academy in model drafting rooms and offices, the cadet store with its sales rooms, tailor shops, cobbler shops and other activities, and provides dormitory space for the employees who operate the mess and the store."

E. Supplemental Material

2. Schematic plan of massing and additions.



T.C.M. 1985
Not to Scale

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.

ADDENDUM TO

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, CADET MESS, STORE
AND DRAWING ACADEMY

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, MESS HALL)

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, WASHINGTON HALL)

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, EISENHOWER HALL)

(UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY, MAC ARTHUR BARRACKS)

West Point

Orange County

New York

HABS No. NY-5708-44

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C. 20013

ADDENDUM TO:
U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY, CADET MESS, STORE & DRAWING
ACADEMY
(Mess Hall)
(Washington Hall)
(Eisenhower Barracks)
(MacArthur Barracks)
West Point
Orange County
New York

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